

Appendix C

Agency Correspondence

Agency Correspondence

The agency correspondence included in this appendix does not represent all responses received from local, state and federal agencies involved in this project. Only those responses directly referenced in the text have been included. Agencies that submitted responses include:

Section 106

- Delaware Nation of Oklahoma
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Hamilton County Historian*
- Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana*
- Monon Railroad Historical-Technical Society, Inc.*

Localities

- Washington Township*
- Clay Township
- Westfield Washington Schools*
- Hamilton County Highway Department

State of Indiana

- Indiana Department of Transportation
 - Greenfield Sub-district
 - Aeronautics Section
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
 - Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology*
 - Division of Nature Preserves*
 - Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Indiana Geological Survey

Federal Government

- Department of the Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service*
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Department of Agriculture

*Denotes responses included in the appendix.

These responses are on file.



Indiana County Historian

working to improve historical communication in Indiana



29 April 2002

Erin Breetzke, M.E.S.
% Parsons Transportation Group
11405 North Pennsylvania Street, Suite 100
Carmel, Indiana 46032

Dear Erin Breetzke:

Re: US 31 Improvement Project

I have looked over the material you sent me under date of 25 April 2002 and basicly agree with the listings in the Historical and Archaeological Resources, although I may be able to make a little clarification of 20019 Pleasant View Cemetery. The location of this cemetery is on the south side of 203rd Street, approximately 1/4 of a mile east of present day U.S. 31. Also, 20017 Chester Friends Cemetery says present law will proscribe any activity with in 100 feet of this resource. At present the west right of way of U.S. 31 lies to the east and adjacent to the east line of the cemetery. This as is the case with all cemeteries we do not get to concerned with the 100 feet portion of this law if present roads etc. have already been existance, however, the remainder of the law which prevents any right of way or utility grants with the land "set aside for cemetery purposes" does apply.

The only other correction that I feel you should have concerns my listing as a consulting party. The telephone number should be 317/773-3454 instead of the Hamilton County Historical Society; also the zip code should be 46060-2146.

Respectfully,

Joe H. Burgess

Joe H. Burgess
Hamilton County Historian

JHB/jb



HISTORIC
LANDMARKS
FOUNDATION OF
INDIANA

Central Regional Office
Kemper House
1028 North Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317 639 4534
Fax: 317 639 6720

April 25, 2002

Ms. Erin Breetzke, M.E.S.
Environmental Planner
Parsons Transportation Group
11405 North Pennsylvania Street, Suite 100
Carmel, IN 46032

RE: U.S. 31 Improvement Project
Designation #9905500
Hamilton County, Indiana

Dear Ms. Breetzke:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to meet with you on April 16, 2002, to discuss the specifics of the US 31 Improvement Project. We appreciate all the time and effort you have put into determining the potential effects of this project on the historic resources in the area. We are confident that your care and attention will allow for a final decision that will have the least negative impact.

At the meeting, you identified fifteen properties that lie within the APE. We realize that more research is needed and is underway, however, a summary of our response to this information is as follows:

We strongly object to the proposed demolition of site #20025, the Hunt House. We also continue to be concerned about seven properties that are either very close to the project or may be directly hit from one of the alternatives presented. They are: #55010— Benjamin Chapel House, #26027— Goodrich Brothers Grain Elevator, #26026— House, #26025— House, #20020— House, #20018— Farm, #20003— S. Lindley Farm. And we have concerns with two of the three cemeteries in the APE: #56001— Carmel Cemetery, and #20017— Chester Friends Cemetery. These two cemeteries will be directly hit by the project.

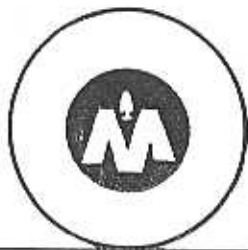
We believe that our concerns can be addressed by choosing the best possible alternative for this project. Mr. Grayburn indicated that one of the goals of the April 16th meeting was to discuss which alternatives would continue on in the process. We would like to encourage you to continue to consider Alternative G, which seems to us, based in the information presented at the meeting, to have the least impact. As of the current plans, no historic buildings would be demolished and the project would be in close proximity to only two buildings, sites #55010 and #20020. Whereas the other alternatives could have up to four direct hits, including the Hunt House, which would be demolished in Alternative F.

Thank you again for the opportunity to meet with you. We look forward to working with you on this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (317) 639-4534 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jena Roy
Regional Program Coordinator

cc: Cynthia Brubaker, Director
John Carr, Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology



**MONON RAILROAD
HISTORICAL-TECHNICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

April 18, 2002

Erin Breetzke, Environmental Planner
Parsons Transportation Group
11405 North Pennsylvania Street
Carmel, IN 46032

Re: US 31 Improvement Project
Hamilton County
Des 9905500
Section 106 Consultation Meeting

Dear Ms Breetzke:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Section 106 consultation meeting for this project, April 16, 2002.

The purpose of the Monon Railroad Historical and Technical Society, Inc. is to collect and preserve information, vestige and other items of historical or technical interest concerning the Monon Railroad, its predecessor companies etc. In particular the earliest predecessors in this area were the Indianapolis, Delphi and Chicago and Louisville, New Albany and Chicago.

All that remains of the Monon in the study area are the route of the railroad which is used in part as the "Monon Trail" and the depot in Carmel. Both of these items are being handled by parties other than this Society. All other railroad owned facilities that might be of interest have been removed.

In addition your list contained Item 26027, Goodrich Brothers Grain Elevator that was a customer of both the Monon and the railroad which it crossed at Westfield. Except for noting its status as a customer of the railroad we do not have an interest in preserving this privately owned structure and surrounding land.

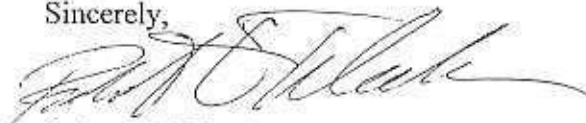
The Society has the engineering drawings from the Monon Railroad which can be made available for your use in this project.

Documentation Department
8104 Bromley Place, Indianapolis, IN 46219-2852 (317)897-3903 rewheeler@iquest.net

Ms. Erin Breetzke,
April 18, 2002
Page 2

If additional information is needed or we may be of further assistance in this project, please advise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Wheeler", written in a cursive style.

Robert E. Wheeler, Archivist

cc: Frank VanBree, President
Ed Lewnard, Secretary
File: US31 Sec116.wpd



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

HAMILTON COUNTY

TRUSTEE
DAVID D. GILL

TOWNSHIP BOARD
JIM CAREY
STEVE WEBSTER
CARL STEELE

Erin Breetzke
Parsons Transportation Group
11405 N. Pennsylvania St - Suite 100
Carmel, IN 46032

May 22, 2002

Ref: MacGregor Park

Dear Ms. Breetzke:

Per our conversation this is to verify that Washington Township Parks Department is the owner of MacGregor Park @ US 31 North and IND State Road 38. We are in the process of contracting with a parks designer and builder for development of this property as a nature park.

Sincerely,

David D. Gill, Trustee
Washington Township - Hamilton County

Memorandum

To: Erin Breetzke, M.E.S.
Environmental Planner

CC:

From: Marty McGaughey
Director of Facilities
Westfield Washington Schools

Date: 05/28/02

Re: Additions to the plat map

Please find some additions to the public use area on the maps you provided. I have included the track area, two additional base ball/soft ball fields, and a small playground for our physically challenged students. The ball diamonds are for school usage as well as public use, however we do have a procedure to follow to reserve their usage.

I would be willing to answer further questions regarding our facilities at any time.

Thank you,

Marty McGaughey



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W774 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-8693 • dhpa@dnr.state.in.us

Frank O'Bannon, Governor
John Goss, Director



May 15, 2002

Erin Breetzke, MES
Environmental Planner
Parsons Transportation Group
11405 North Pennsylvania Street, Suite 100
Carmel, Indiana 46032

Federal Agency: Federal Highway Administration

Re: Additional information concerning the modifications to US 31 from I-465 to SR 38
(Designation #9905500; DNR #8610-1)

Dear Ms. Breetzke:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer (Indiana SHPO) has conducted an analysis of the materials dated April 1, 2002, and April 25, 2002, and received by the Indiana SHPO on April 2, 2002, and April 26, 2002, for the above indicated project in Carmel, Clay and Washington townships, Hamilton County, Indiana.

In our opinion, the following properties are individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1) S. Lindley Farm on US 31 (Site #057-667-20003 per the *Hamilton County Interim Report*) is a good example of Italianate architecture.
- 2) Hunt House on US 31 (Site #057-667-20025) is a good example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture.

However, based upon the available historical and architectural documentation, we believe that the following properties do not meet the criteria to be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

- 1) Chester Friends Cemetery on US 31 (Site #057-667-20017)
- 2) Farm on US 31 (Site #057-667-20018)
- 3) Pleasant View Cemetery on East 202nd Street (Site #057-667-20019)
- 4) House on East 191st Street (Site #057-464-20020)
- 5) Farm on Grassy Branch Road (Site #057-464-20023)
- 6) House on Westfield Boulevard (Site #057-464-20042)
- 7) House at 315 West Main Street (Site #057-667-26025)
- 8) House at 131 Poplar Street (Site #057-667-26026)
- 9) Goodrich Brothers Grain Elevator on SR 32 (Site #057-667-26027)
- 10) Summit Lawn Cemetery (Site #057-667-26037)
- 11) Benjamin Chappel House at 416 West Smoky Road (Site #057-098-55010)
- 12) Farm on West 131st Street (Site #057-098-55011)
- 13) Carmel Cemetery on North Rangeline Road (Site #057-098-56001)

We would be happy to reevaluate the above listed thirteen properties, if more historical or architectural documentation becomes available.

When the information becomes available, please provide a detailed site plan, drawn to scale, showing the footprint or face of the Lindley Farm and the Hunt House in relation to the existing and proposed conditions (e.g., roadway, right-of-way, driveways, etc.). Be sure to include any changes to the existing conditions.

In regard to archaeological aspects of this review, we concur that 12H359 will require further investigations. Sites 12H87, 12H88, 12H102, 12H120, 12H121, 12H151, 12H155, 12H168, 12H304, 12H458, 12H459, 12H460, 12H482, 12H823, 12H824, 12H848, and 12H849 are not eligible for register status.

Our records indicate that portions of the proposed project area have not been assessed by a professional archaeologist. Based upon our knowledge of the region, the proposed project area is physiographically suitable to contain archaeological resources. In order to determine the effects of this project on archaeological resources and as part of the Federal Agency Official's responsibilities to identify historic properties, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 800.4, we will need an archaeological reconnaissance level survey. The survey must be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation" (48 F.R. 44716). A description of the survey methods and results must be submitted to the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology for review before we can comment further.


In the event that sites which are eligible for the National Register are discovered, the applicant must follow the rules and regulations established by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (found at 36 C.F.R. Part 800) to implement federal Public Laws 89-665, 94-422, and 96-515, and Executive Order 11593

If you have questions about our comments, please call our office at (317) 232-1646. Questions about archaeological issues should be directed to Bill Mangold. Questions about buildings or structures should be directed to Karie A. Brudis.

Very truly yours,



John R. Goss
State Historic Preservation Officer



JRG/KAB:WLM:wlm

cc: John Baxter, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Jena Roy, Central Regional Office, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Frank O'Bannon, Governor
Larry D. Macklin, Director
Division of Nature Preserves
402 W. Washington Street, Rm. W267
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739

January 31, 2002

Ms. Erin Breetzke, M.E.S.
Parsons Transportation Group
11405 North Pennsylvania Street, Suite 100
Carmel, IN 46032

Dear Ms. Breetzke:

I am responding to your request for information on the endangered, threatened, or rare (ETR) species, high quality natural communities, and natural areas documented from the US 31/SR 431 project area, Hamilton & Marion County, Indiana. The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center has been checked and enclosed you will find information on the ETR species and significant areas documented from the project area.

For more information on the animal species mentioned, please contact Katie Smith, Nongame Supervisor, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington Room W273, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, (317)232-4080.

The information I am providing does not preclude the requirement for further consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. You should contact the Service at their Bloomington, Indiana office.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
620 South Walker St.
Bloomington, Indiana 47403-2121
(812)334-4261

At some point, you may need to contact the Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Review Coordinator so that other divisions within the department have the opportunity to review your proposal. For more information, please contact:

Larry Macklin, Director
Department of Natural Resources
attn: Stephen H. Jose
Environmental Coordinator
Division of Fish and Wildlife
402 W. Washington Street, Room W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317)232-4080

Please note that the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center relies on the observations of many individuals for our data. In most cases, the information is not the result of comprehensive field surveys conducted at particular sites. Therefore, our statement that there are no documented significant natural features at a site should not be interpreted to mean that the site does not support special plants or animals.

Due to the dynamic nature and sensitivity of the data, this information should not be used for any project other than that for which it was originally intended. It may be necessary for you to request updated material from us in order to base your planning decisions on the most current information.

Thank you for contacting the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center. You may reach me at (317)232-8059 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,


Ronald P. Hellmich

Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center

enclosure: data sheet

January 31, 2002

ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND RARE SPECIES,
HIGH QUALITY NATURAL COMMUNITIES, AND SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS DOCUMENTED
FROM THE US 31/SR 431 PROJECT AREA, HAMILTON & MARION COUNTIES, INDIANA

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SPECIES NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>FED</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
CARMEL							
<u>BITTERNUT WOODS NATURE PRESERVE</u>							
Forest	FOREST - FLOODPLAIN	WET-MESIC	SG	**	T17NR03E 03 SEQ	NO D	
	WET-MESIC	FLOODPLAIN FOREST					
Forest	FOREST - UPLAND	MESIC UPLAND FOREST	SG	**	T17NR03E 03 SEQ	NO D	
	MESIC						
FISHERS							
Bird	BUTEO LINEATUS	RED-SHOULDERED	SSC	**	T18NR04E 29 NWQ	1957	
		HAWK					
Mammal	TAXIDEA TAXUS	AMERICAN BADGER	SE	**	T18NR04E	1985	
					CARMEL		
Mammal	TAXIDEA TAXUS	AMERICAN BADGER	SE	**	T17NR04E 07 N1/2	1989	
					SEQ		

STATE: SX=extirpated, SE=endangered, ST=threatened, SR=rare, SSC=special concern, WL=watch list,
SG=significant, ** no status but rarity warrants concern
FEDERAL: LE=endangered, LT=threatened, LELT=different listings for specific ranges of species, PE=proposed
endangered, PT=proposed threatened, E/SA=appearance similar to LE species, **=not listed



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

BLOOMINGTON FIELD OFFICE (ES)

620 South Walker Street

Bloomington, Indiana 47403-2121

(812) 334-4261 FAX 334-4273

July 25, 2001

Mr. Cory Grayburn
Parsons Transportation Group
11405 North Pennsylvania Street, Suite 100
Carmel, Indiana 46032

Project : US 31 improvements, I-465 to SR 38 (Des. #9905500)
Waterway: Multiple stream crossings
Work Type: Road reconstruction and widening
County(ies): Hamilton

Dear Mr. Grayburn:

This provides the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) comments in response to the June 28, 2001 interagency review meeting and field inspection for the aforementioned project.

These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et. seq.) and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mitigation Policy.

PURPOSE AND NEED

We concur with The US EPA representative's comments at the interagency review meeting that origin/destination studies should be performed to ensure that the selected route will best address the traffic patterns which are generating the congestion problems.

We also recommend that you use the results of the origin/destination studies to give full consideration to mass transit alternatives, possibly in concert with road construction alternatives, to address the congestion problems on US 31. Mass transit facilities at key locations may reduce the scope of road reconstruction, or may improve the level of service beyond what the road reconstruction alone can attain. The benefits of mass transit alternatives may not be fully realized until facilities have been in place long enough for commuters to become accustomed to using them. A substantial increase in mass transit use would produce environmental benefits in terms of water quality and air quality.

Serious consideration should be given to pedestrian/bicycle facilities, including multi-use trails on all route alternatives.

ROUTE ALTERNATIVES AND PROJECT IMPACTS

We have conducted an inspection of potentially sensitive areas along the existing US 31 route alternative. As discussed in our previous letters and in your meeting minutes, our major concern with that alternative is the Cool Creek corridor and floodplain wetland complex that is located near the existing US 31/SR 431 interchange. A reconfiguration of the US 31/SR 431 interchange that had substantial impacts on this area would be unacceptable to this agency. Another area of concern is a forested section of the Cool Creek floodplain near US 31 north of 156th Street. Due to the proximity to Cool Creek at this location, no new right-of-way should be taken from the forested floodplain.

We have not inspected the other route alternatives that were presented at the meeting, except for the driving survey from existing roads. We are not aware of any highly sensitive areas that would be affected by the other routes, however there are several potential crossings of forested stream corridors, including Williams Creek and several of its tributaries. Minor wetland impacts may also occur on these routes. We may need additional field inspections to further evaluate these issues.

The general feeling among INDOT and FHWA staff at the meeting was that the far western routes may not fulfill the project purpose of reducing congestion, however more information on this subject may be provided by the results of the origin/destination studies.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

As stated in our previous letters, the proposed project is within the range of the Federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and federally threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). At this time there are no eagle nests or significant habitat areas near the project corridor.

There is suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats in forested areas along Cool Creek, and possibly in other forested areas along the project route. There are no current records of Indiana bats near the project corridor but to our knowledge none of the streams in the affected area have been surveyed. There are multiple records of this species in adjacent Marion County, including a location within 10 miles of the project. Since the boundaries of the impact area have not yet been established we cannot make a determination as to whether the project may adversely affect the Indiana bat. The area of greatest concern is the Cool Creek corridor around and downstream from the US 31/SR 431 interchange. If any design alternatives would result in substantial impacts to the forested stream corridor and floodplain, we recommend that a bat survey be performed in this area.

This endangered species information is provided for technical assistance only, and does not fulfill the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

US 31/SR 431 Interchange

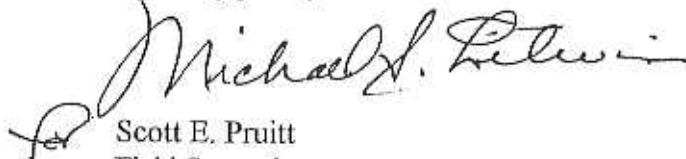
1. Avoid relocation of Cool Creek or its tributaries, and avoid channel/bank disturbance except for the minimum necessary for bridge crossings.
2. Avoid any significant alteration of the wetlands and forested floodplain.
3. Mitigate for unavoidable forest loss by reforestation within the Cool Creek floodplain.

Other Stream Crossings Floodplains

1. Avoid forest clearing in the area on the east side of US 31 north of 156th Street, where the highway is immediately adjacent to the forested floodplain of Cool Creek.
2. Design crossings to avoid channel relocations and otherwise minimize alterations of the stream channels and riparian zones.
3. Implement standard mitigation measures as identified in our previous letters.

For further discussion please contact Mike Litwin at (812) 334-4261 (ext. 205).

Sincerely yours,


Scott E. Pruitt
Field Supervisor

cc: Federal Highway Administration, Indianapolis, IN
Andrew Pelloso, IDEM, Water Quality Standards Section, Indianapolis, IN
Steve Jose, Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indianapolis, IN
Manager, Environmental Assessment, INDOT, Rm 1107, Indianapolis, IN